

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated August 12, 2003, are respectfully requested.

I. Amendments

Claims 1, 9, 20, and 32 have been amended for form. More specifically, the roman numerals preceding the claim elements have been deleted.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 18, 19, 30, 31, and 32, have been amended to correct inadvertent typographical errors.

Claim 22 has also been amended to correct an inadvertent error in form. More specifically, claim 22 has been amended to recite elements of claim 23. Claim 23 has been cancelled.

In claim 7, the phrase "the group" has been amended to "a group." Likewise, in claim 32, the phrase "the status information" has been amended to recite, "status information".

II. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 7 and 32 based on lack of antecedent basis. Applicant has amended claims 7 and 32, as described above, to address the objection.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-6 and 8-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0160757 ("Shavit"). The Examiner also rejected claims 7 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Shavit. Applicants submit herewith Declarations under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 for inventors Kanefsky and Burg. These Declarations are seasonably presented, as they are submitted prior to a final rejection. MPEP § 715.09. Because these Declarations establish an invention date prior to Shavit's April 26, 2001, filing date, Shavit is removed

as a reference. Applicants accordingly request the rejection of claims 1-6, 8-22, and 24-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and the rejection of claims 7 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

As explained in detail in the attached Declarations, the inventors possessed either the whole invention as claimed in claims 1-22 and 24-33, or something falling within the claims prior to April 26, 2001, Shavit's filing date. The facts presented in the Declarations carry with them any variations and adaptations that would have been obvious at the same time, to one of ordinary skill in the art. MPEP § 715.02. Thus, despite any minor difference between the facts presented in the Declarations and the claims, the inventors conceived of the claimed invention before the effective date of Shavit. Additionally, the inventors diligently reduced their invention to practice, as explained in the Declarations.

Despite the submitted Declarations, the claims nevertheless are patentable because the Shavit reference does not disclose the claimed system and method. For example, the Shavit reference does not disclose the following elements:

storing information about a plurality of communication devices associated with the user, wherein at least two of the communication devices belong to different types of networks and do not depend on each other's network for a communication; and

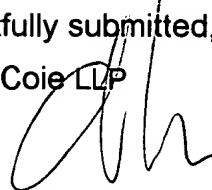
receiving the status information regarding the at least two of the communication devices from respective networks.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and patentably define over the applied art. A Notice of Allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-3599.

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Respectfully submitted,
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